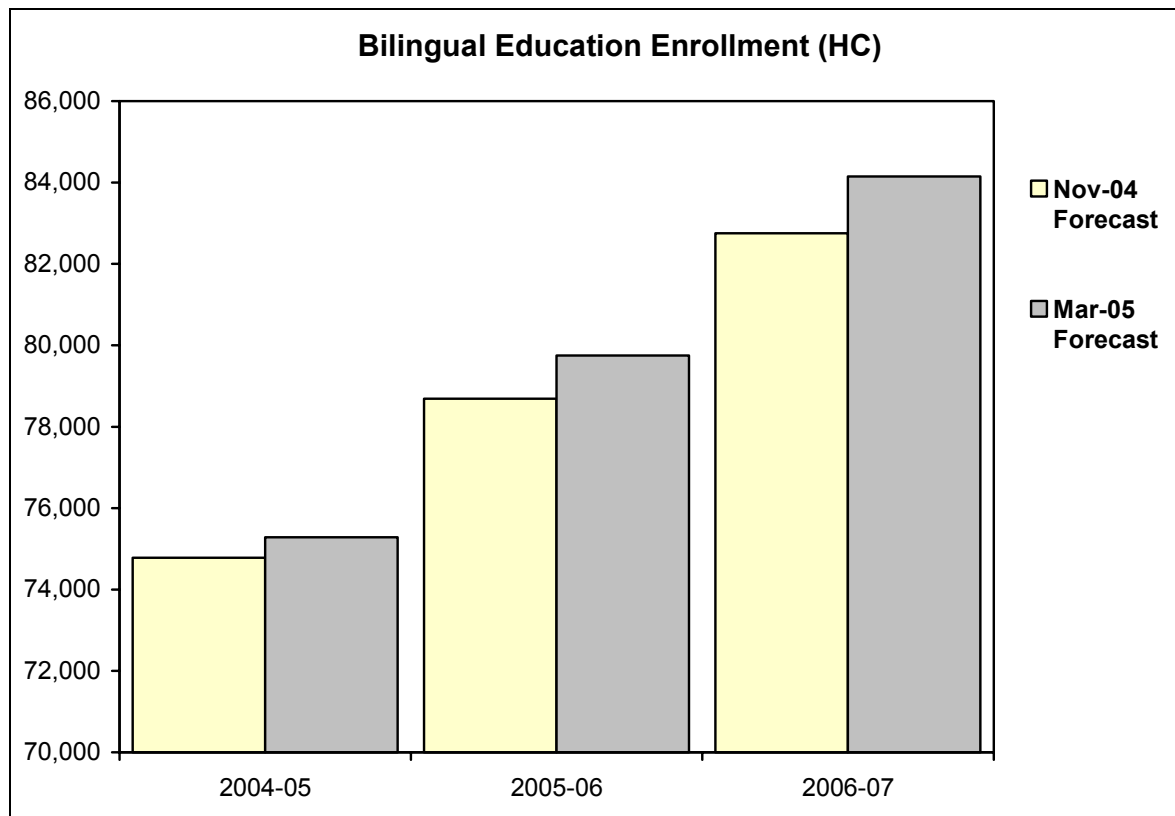


K-12 Basic Education

Caseload Forecast Council
March 17, 2005



Forecast Comparisons (Eight Month Average)

School Year	Nov-04 Forecast	Mar-05 Forecast	Nov to Mar Difference
2004-05	74,783	75,278	0.7%
2005-06	78,690	79,749	1.3%
2006-07	82,754	84,153	1.7%

The Bilingual Education enrollment is forecast in terms of an eight month (October – May) average headcount (HC). Bilingual enrollment is reported monthly by local school districts.

- Bilingual Education programs vary significantly from district to district. Models include “dual language,” “transitional” native language support through the use of “pull-out” instruction in the native language, and ESL models where the emphasis is on English language acquisition. About 57 percent of instruction is provided by teacher aides, as opposed to certificated staff.

- Bilingual enrollment, as a percentage of K-12 enrollment, has been increasing steadily from 1.6 percent in 1984 to 7.3 percent in 2004. While Spanish remains the predominant language, 141 foreign languages are represented among the Bilingual Program students.

Tracking the November 2004 Forecast

	November 2004		November 2004 FC
	Forecast	Actual	Variance
Nov04	74,714	75,071	0.5%
Dec04	74,426	74,884	0.6%
Jan-05	74,094	74,565	0.6%

- The March 2005 forecast is about 500 students higher than the November 2004.
- The revised forecast reflects a correction for a September-October reporting problem in one district.

Bilingual Education Caseload Change

School Year*	Caseload Change	Percent Change	
2001-02	3,008	5.1%	Actual
2002-03	3,737	6.0%	
2003-04	4,650	7.0%	
2004-05	4,370	6.2%	Forecast
2005-06	4,471	5.9%	
2006-07	4,404	5.5%	

* Change from prior year

- Bilingual enrollment is expected to continue to grow by about 5.7 percent per year over the 2005-07 Biennium.
- The Bilingual program growth rate is about ten times the expected K-12 growth rate. The higher Bilingual growth rate probably reflects a number of factors including:
 - Over 50 percent of in-migration to the state is foreign born.
 - Immigrant families tend to be larger and younger than native (Washington) born families.

- A significant portion of state employment opportunities are in lower paid occupations such as manual labor, landscaping, and the service industry, occupations that traditionally a large number of non-English speaking employees may be attracting non-English speaking families from other states.
- A Bilingual Education program philosophy favoring a five year or longer length of stay may be leading to an increased length of stay in the program.